

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
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SOUTHERN BAPTIST ANNUAL MEETING IS IN KYOTO

The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist church will be held in Kyoto, August 18-21. Main business will be election of officers and planning a schedule of evangelism. It is hoped that an evangelist from Europe or Africa can be invited to participate in the nationwide program.

Reports of advance in the church since the war indicate that there are now fifty-six congregations of the Southern Baptist church in Japan, while at the end of the war there were only sixteen.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST YOUTH HOLD CONFERENCE

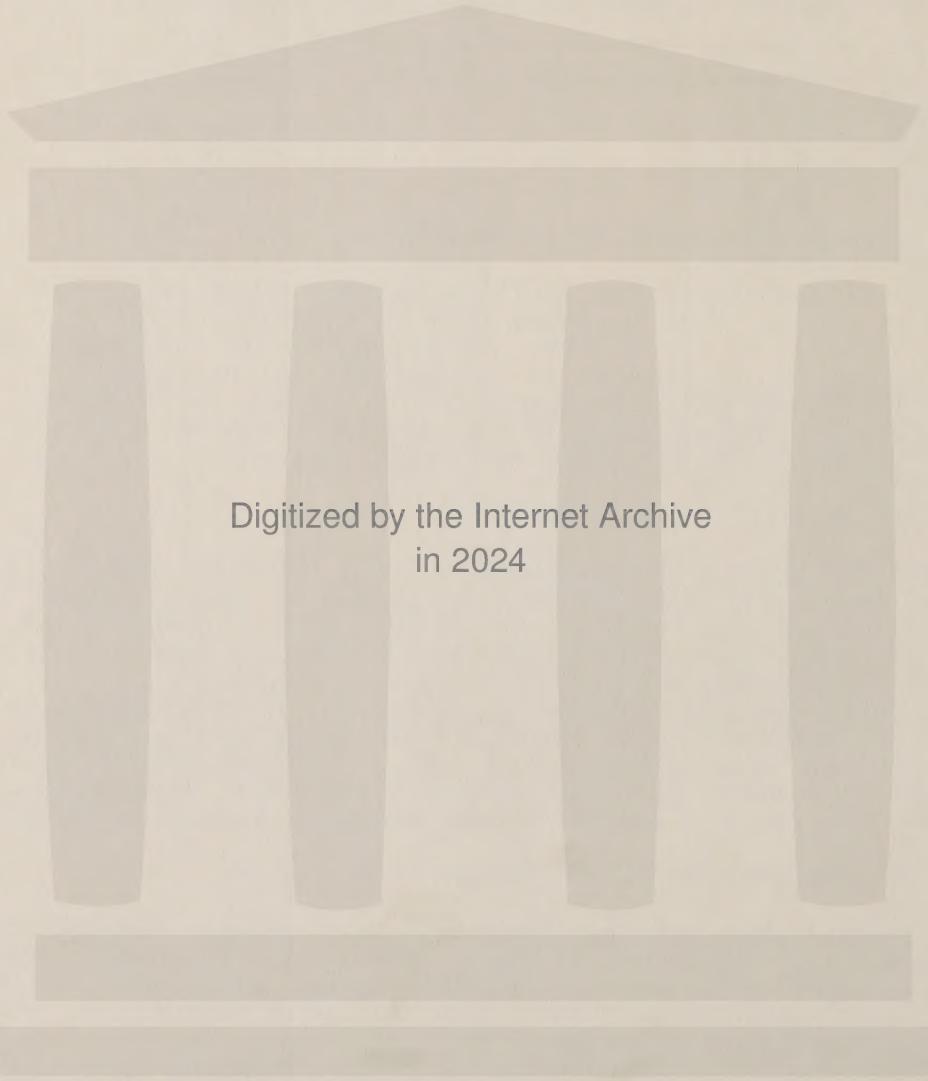
Two-hundred youth representatives of the Southern Baptist church will gather August 25-28 at hot springs in Aso on Kyushu island for their youth leaders' conference. The Sovereignty of God will be the theme of the conference. This theme is the same as that used by the world youth conference held July 17 at Rio de Janerio.

The two representatives from Japan to the world conference will return for the Aso meeting to report to the group and lead in discussions and plans for the Japan youth groups. These representatives to the world meeting were Miss Akiko Endo, secretary of the youth department of the Southern Baptist church, and Mr. Hideki Imamura, student at Seinan Gakuin.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN FOR BLIND PLANNED

Mass evangelistic meetings for blind persons were planned at the summer retreat for blind held at Rokko, suburb of Kobe August 5-6. These meetings held during the period from this autumn until next spring will be in the Kanto and Kansai areas. This will be a part of the NCC centennial evangelistic campaign.

The Rokko retreat, attended by 170 blind Christian from all over Japan working under the theme, "Looking at the Light of Christ", resolved to promote the evangelistic work of traveling ministers. The group also determined to publish Christian books in Braille and laid plans for a ¥200,000 financial drive to cover the expense of the project. Ground work for compilation of a history of blind evangelism in Japan was also laid.



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At business sessions, Rev. Kozo Kashiwai was made chairman of the Blind Evangelistic council and Rev. Ryozo Ishimatsu, vice-chairman. It was voted that the council would apply as an associate member of the NCC. Speakers from the NCC were Rev. Akira Ebisawa and Rev. Kozo Kashiwai.

SPEAKERS SELECTED FOR UNITED CHURCH MISSION CONFERENCE

Main speakers for the United Church of Christ mission conference to be held in Tokyo, September 22-24 (see Activities News #22) have been selected. Dr. Charles T. Lever, chairman of the foreign mission department of NCCC-USA, and Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa will be the featured speakers.

On the evening of September 23, Rev. Kagawa will be the speaker at a mass evangelical meeting, speaking on the subject, "Without Prayer, No Miracle".

YMCA CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS IN JAPAN

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of YMCA work in Japan. In observance of this the national YMCA is meeting for the twenty-fifth biannual meeting, August 22-23 at Tozanso, Gotemba. Guests at the meeting will be Mr. Domingo Bascara, general secretary of the Manila YMCA; Mr. Rogers Arnold, secretary of the Formosan YMCA; and Mr. F. E. Leung, secretary of the Orient department of the world YMCA.

From city YMCA's in Japan about 220 will gather. Sunday, September 23, Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa will address the group.

Special recognition will be given to YMCA secretaries and trustees in Japan who have given more than twenty-five years service. This will include approximately fourteen secretaries and twentyseven trustees.

WORLD CONGRESS ON EVANGELISM CLOSES IN TOKYO

Though August 15 marks the close of the World Congress on Evangelism under Youth For Christ, plans are going forward for local evangelistic campaigns throughout Japan during the next weeks.

Altogether about 1,000 persons attended the Congress held at the Tokyo Kaikan. One hundred twenty-one delegates from the United States and Canada, 250 representatives from thirty countries in the world, plus missionaries and Japanese made up the group which gathered to promote a mass evangelistic movement.

During the Congress, August 9-15, mass and local area meetings were held in Tokyo. Representatives from the national and local Japanese government appeared and presented greetings to the Congress.

FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCES HELD IN SEPTEMBER

Four local meetings of the Family Life Movement will be held September 4-8 in Fukushima prefecture. Mrs. Toshiko Yamaguchi, committee member of the NCC Family Life Movement and also of the women's department of the Episcopal church, will be the speaker at these meetings in Wakamatsu, Koriyama, Fukushima and Takiwacho.

The local Christian women's groups will sponsor the meetings.

REGIONAL VISITATION EVANGELISM TRAINING COURSES HELD

In preparation for the visitation evangelism campaign which is a part

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of the centennial evangelism program of the NCC, one training course has been completed for the eastern section of Japan. Seventy representatives attended the three-day course at Karuizawa from August 13-15. Another course will be held on Kyushu possibly in September.

SENIOR HIGH YWCA GIRLS HAVE ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

Nearly 300 senior high school YWCA members gathered in the two regional conferences held this year by the National YWCA. The first meeting, at Iai girls school in Hakodate, Hokkaido, July 23-27, was attended by 140 young women. The same number attended the western area meeting at Fukuoka girls school in Fukuoka, Kyushu, August 7-11. "Conviction" was the theme of the meeting on Hokkaido and "The Changing Society and Youth" of the Fukuoka gathering.

The girls discussed "The World We Hope For" during their study periods. Workshops on various phases of the YW program were held and resource leaders helped to bring the focus of thinking upon the world and its problems, and youth's responsibilities to the world and society.

The student department of the YWCA will hold a conference August 25-29 at Nikko using the same general theme of the senior high conferences.

RURAL YOUTH GATHER FOR CONFERENCE

The policy of rural evangelism will be discussed by the fifty young farmers attending the rural Christian youth national conference at Hino Rural Theological seminary in the western suburbs of Tokyo, held August 18-21. All representatives from the thirteen United Church districts attending have been baptized Christian for at least one year.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications of the Christian literature committee include five of a series of twelve pamphlets on Christianity. The five published are "God", "Problem of Death", "Christianity and other Religions" and "Holy Spirit".

The second edition of the Standard Bible dictionary, published by the Protestant Publishing company, will be ready before Christmas.

Two Biblical maps are being compiled by Prof. Yoshishige Sakon and three students of Tokyo Union Theological seminary under the direction of the literature committee. One of Palestine will be ready in October and the other of the Mediterranean sea, covering the area of Paul's Journeys, will be available in February. The two topographical maps, in color, will be a large size, suitable for use in Christian schools and church schools.

Dr. Darley Downs has been appointed associate secretary of the literature committee to replace Rev. John DeMaggd, who is on furlough.

The first Christian Literature week will be observed in October, probably the second week, with special posters issued to each church encouraging the use of Christian books and magazines. Catalogues of all available literature will be sent to the churches also.

Rev. Norimichi Ebisawa, secretary of the literature department, will attend meetings in Okayama, September 1, and Nagoya, September 3. Ministers, church school superintendents and other laymen will gather to study available Christian literature and methods of using it.

